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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Chile

SUBJECT Communist Activities in Chile

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SUPPLEMENT

1. An internal split has developed in the Chilean Communist Party, according to a source, believed to be reliable, reporting on 17 April 1947. As an example of this split source cited the approval of raises in gas, electricity, and telephone rates during the first week of April. When the measure was discussed at the committee level, members of the Communist Party on the committee approved the raises. Yet, when the measure was discussed in the Cabinet, the Communist members of the Cabinet were completely opposed. According to source, forces within the party are lining up either for or against Carlos Contreras Labarca. Those favoring Contreras desired his resignation from his post, at that date, of Minister of Public Works and his return to active leadership of the Party. His opponents wish to see him expelled from the Party, in which case Ricardo Fonseca would remain as head, under the control of Galo Gonzalez and Humberto Abaroa.
2. Source also reported that Communist Party members who were assigned a specific mission for the Party were being required to deposit their membership cards before carrying out their mission. Thus in the event of difficulties with the police, no document identifying them with the Party would be found on their persons.
3. A drive was being launched by the Communist Party to recruit five hundred individuals of a higher class than those now acting as rank and file organizers.

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